

Shea, Valois

From:

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Sent:

Tuesday, May 09, 2017 12:53 PM

To:

Shea, Valois

Subject:

aquifer exemption for uranium mining project in southwestern South Dakota

Ms. Shea,

I am writing to comment on the uranium mining project in Edgemont, South Dakota. I am opposed to the project for a number of reasons.

You were quoted in the Black Hills Pioneer as stating, "The best permit in the world isn't a guarantee that nothing will happen," she said. "But there will be extra monitoring and remediation so if anything did happen, we would catch it early and fix it."

I find this a troubling statement especially given the current political climate where science is being dismissed in the interest of monetary gain. I by no means wish to question you personally as a scientist, but I feel that there would be a lot of plausible deniability from Powertech should something go wrong with this project and do not have confidence in the EPA as it currently exists that it would sufficiently enforce remediation should something happen.

The EPA website also claims the following: "EPA is also proposing an aquifer exemption approval in connection with the draft UIC Class III Area Permit. Specifically, this approval would exempt the uranium-bearing portions of the Inyan Kara Group aquifers from protection under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Such an exemption must be in place before ISR activities within these aquifers can occur."

Why is an exemption required if nothing will happen that will affect the drinking water in this area. This seems like a CYA move on the part of the EPA.

Finally, although I do not live in the Edgemont area, I am a resident of the Black Hills and my business is dependent on clean water. I have heard (and acknowledge that I may be mistaken) that should the permits be granted for this project that Powertech would like to expand its operations to other areas of the Black Hills. If this is the case I would have a great concern over how this could affect my livelihood should something happen to contaminate the groundwater in my area.

Thank you for incorporating my comments into the public record.

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

President

Crow Peak Brewing Company